GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2370
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2001
CONFERENCE ON BIOTECHNOLOGY THE SCIENCE AND BUSINESS
M.H. AMBAREESH

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a three day national conference on `Biotechnology-The Science and Business` was held in Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the countries that participated in the said conference;

(c) whether it is a fact that the popularity of science and technology as a career of choice among young students has been declining;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government to generate interest in science and technology in the country ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a) & (b) : Yes, Sir. A three day national conference titled `Biotechnology-the Science and the Business` was organized by All India Biotech Association, New Delhi in association with Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi from September 28 to 30, 2001 in New Delhi. Though France had agreed to be a partner country in this conference, the French delegation could not participate in the event. The conference was aimed at setting properties for rapid growth and commercialization of Biotechnology. In this Conference, around 300 delegates participated.

(c), (d) & (e) : A trend has been noticed amongst students to pursue professional courses, keeping in view the employment opportunities. However, an increased interest has been noticed among young students for pursuing a career in areas relating to Biology and Biotechnology.

The Department of Science& Technology has started Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana to encourage students at Class X level to take up a career in science. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has initiated a scheme for creating leadership in youth in science. Besides, summer programmes in prestigious research and educational institutions are organized and preferential access to libraries, laboratories, museums is provided to the students for generating their interest in Science & Technology. For enhancing the interest in Biological Sciences and Biotechnology among youngsters, the Department of Biotechnology supports popular lectures, conducts exhibitions, awards scholarships to the toppers in Biology at 10 plus 2 level conducted by Central Board of Secondary Education every year.